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## **Manufacturing for Entrepreneurs**

- BLNC We can help you start, grow and maintain your business in North Carolina. Business Link North Carolina (BLNC) is a division of the Economic Development Partnership of NC (EDPNC) and offers a central source for consultations, information and referrals... just the help you need to tap into all the State has to offer.
- The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' divisions have responsibilities in regulatory and service areas covering agronomy; animal health; weights and measures; gas and oil inspection; crop and livestock statistics; USDA commodity distribution;
- Welcome to USDA Rural Development. We are committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through our programs, we help rural Americans in many ways.
- Manufacturing.gov A national manufacturing advanced manufacturing portal highlighting the national network for manufacture innovation
  - <u>AMTech</u> Welcome to the NIST Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech) program. Launched in 2013. AMTech is a competitive grants program intended to establish new or strengthen existing industry-driven consortia that address high-priority research challenges impeding the growth of advanced manufacturing in the United States. The AMTech program funds broad participation across the value-chain including companies of all sizes, universities and government agencies. It is modeled on successful national efforts within various industry and technology sectors.
- <u>Data.gov Manufacturing</u> Explore data, tools, apps and research related to new technologies, facilities, and research. The U.S. Government funds research for government agencies to help empower U.S. innovation—through this page you now have access to all of that valuable research and data.
- Inventors & Entrepreneurs The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is the federal agency for granting U.S. patents and registering trademarks. In doing this, the USPTO fulfills the mandate of Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, of the Constitution that the legislative branch "promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries.
- NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership Headquartered in Gaithersburg, MD, the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a public/private partnership that works with small and midsized U.S. manufacturers to create and retain jobs, increase profits, save time and money, develop new customers, and expand into new markets.

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